of area. In order to raise the rate of growth of productivity, the Government is implementing several production oriented programmes for various crops along with improving the supply of inputs and providing price and market support.

Newsitem Captioned "Rajdhani track develops cracks in Dhanbad"

3984. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Telegraph, Calcutta dated 3-7-1996, captioned "Rajdhani track develops cracks in Dhanbad-unscientific mining leads to subsidence";

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of warning given by the Chief Mining Adviser, neither the Railways nor the Coal India Limted paid any attention to the safety of the tracks passing through the collieries; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Railways for the construction of an alternative route between Dhanbad and Patherdih?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, it is not a fact.

(c) Construction of an alternative route is not contemplated.

Delay in offloading of urea

3985. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a delay in offloading Rs. 52 crore worth of urea which cost the exchequer $ 25,000 per day; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in offloading the urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) For handling and distribution of imported urea during 1996-97, the Government had started the process for appointment of handling agencies well in time. But unlike in the past, the rates received through tenders for handling urea at the ports for the current financial year were uniformally higher over the previous year. As these rates have an implication on the quantum of urea subsidy, the finalisation of the 1996-97 contracts merited detailed scrutiny by different agencies of the Government. During this process, five vessels containing a total of 93,535 MTs. of urea arrived at Indian ports in the period immediately prior to the appointment of handling agencies. The pre-berthing detention in the case of these vessels is estimated as 6.17 days per vessel and the weighted average detention charges as Rs. 1.87 lakhs per day.

Banning of Industries in forest areas

3986. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to put a blanket ban on setting-up of industries in forest areas even if they fulfil the requirements as laid down by law;

(b) whether this policy will not deny direct and indirect fruits of industrialisation and infrastructural development of the area;

(c) whether Government are considering guidelines for the entrepreneurs whom they want to put up industries based on raw material available in forests; and

(d) whether the Ministry of Industry will be taken into confidence before arriving at a decision on the above mentioned ban?